

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7577**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1491

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 5, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** St. Joseph Superior Court Judges.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Fry

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill requires the nonpartisan election of superior court judges in St. Joseph County. The bill continues the terms of the St. Joseph superior court judges in office on June 30, 2009, until the date the judges' terms will end under the law in effect on June 30, 2009. The bill repeals provisions concerning judicial retention elections in St. Joseph County.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary-* The Election Division (ED) would have to determine candidate eligibility from declaration of candidacy documents filed by those seeking a judgeship through election. The ED would be able to process the additional documents within their existing level of resources.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The provision would have minimal impact on local expenditures. Judges in St. Joseph County are currently placed on the general election ballot every six years for a vote of retention. Given that the bill would require the judges to be directly elected by a general election ballot every six years, the general election ballot may need to be reorganized to accommodate their direct election instead of retention.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** St. Joseph County

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.